

# 2008

## MOOSE • SHEEP • GOAT

Montana Hunting Regulations



Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks



### What's New?

*See page 2 for details*

- **Moose:**
  - New Hunting Districts 390 & 600
- **Bighorn Sheep:**
  - Limited Entry Archery Only Season
  - New Hunting District 502
  - Hunting District 301 Reopens
  - Hunting District 380 Closed
- **Goat:**
  - Hunting Districts 212, 321 & 322 Closed

**TURN IN POACHERS  
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**

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*Apply for Licenses, Special Permits and SuperTags Online: [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov)*

Photo by Donald M. Jones/donaldmjones.com

## Introduction To Hunting In Montana

Welcome to Montana's 2008 hunting season! Montana's hunting and fishing license year is March 1, 2008 – February 28, 2009.

This hunting regulations booklet contains information you need to know for a safe and legal hunting experience. It is your responsibility to know the regulations before you hunt.

Below are key topics in the order in which they are presented. Please refer to the index for detailed page listings.

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## Regulations Adopted by FWP Commission

These regulations are adopted under the authority granted to the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission (FWPC) per MCA 87-1-301, and are valid March 1, 2008, through February 28, 2009. These regulations were adopted by the FWPC on February 20, 2008. However, season quotas are tentative and may be subject to FWPC changes. The FWPC reserves the authority to amend the seasons, limits and regulations herein if deemed necessary for wildlife management purposes. M. Jeff Hagener, Director.

State and Federal laws, Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against

(as described above) in any Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Personnel Office, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

## What's New?

See individual hunting districts for specific details.

### Moose

Changes in HDs: 210, 211, 214, 215, 302, and 334 and new HDs 390 and 600.

### Sheep

Statewide -

Implement archery only season for limited entry sheep licenses to run for 10 days prior to the start of any district's general sheep season opener. This does not include HD 301 or the unlimited entry districts.

Changes in HDs: 121, 301, 380, 500, 501, 502, 503, 620, 622, and 680.

### Goat

Changes in HDs: 212, 321, and 322.

## Reminders for 2008

- **SuperTag Lottery** – Resident and nonresident hunters can buy an unlimited number of \$5 chances to win a Montana hunting license for antelope, bighorn sheep, bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and mountain lion. See page 7.
- **License Discount Opportunities** –
  - Montana resident members of the Montana National Guard, Federal Reserve or Active Duty, who participated after September 11, 2001 in a contingency operation outside the state for two months and have been released from active duty or discharged, are entitled to a free conservation license OR a sportsman w/o bear license for a fee of \$2. These licenses will be issued only at FWP offices. DD 214 and supporting documentation is required.
  - A veteran with certain combat-connected injuries may be entitled to half-priced licenses for deer and antelope. Up to 50 licenses will be issued annually. Contact FWP License Bureau Chief for details at 406-444-2663.
  - Nonresidents who hold a current upland game bird license, big game combination, elk combination or deer combination license may purchase a nonresident turkey license for \$55 each (limit of two licenses per hunter).
  - 300 Nonresident Youth Big Game Combination Licenses will be sold for \$324, first-come, first-served, beginning March 1 to nonresident youth who have an adult immediate family member who possesses a current resident deer or elk license or a nonresident big game, elk combination or deer combination license. Applications are available from FWP's website and will be processed at the FWP headquarters in Helena.
  - Nonresident children of residents may be entitled to reduced rate licenses for up to six years from the date they received their diploma or GED. To qualify the child must have: 1) been born and raised in Montana; 2) attended and completed high school or attained a GED in Montana; and 3) the parent(s) still reside in Montana. Licenses will be issued at FWP offices with verification of Birth Certificate, Montana high school diploma or GED, and proof that natural or adoptive parent is still a current Montana resident. Any nonresident youth hunting with this license must be accompanied by a licensed resident family member while hunting in the field.
- **Don't Forget** – You can apply for special licenses online at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov). Click on Licenses and Applications listed under Online Services.
- **Check the FWP website at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov)** – for late changes by the FWP Commission.





## Key Terms

**General Season:** Also referred to as the “firearm season.” For moose, mountain goat and bighorn sheep this is the period from mid-September to late November that is generally available for hunting with a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, crossbow or archery equipment. The specific dates and any weapons restrictions for each hunting opportunity is specified in the hunting district regulations.

**HD:** Abbreviation for Hunting District.

**Hunting Hours:** Authorized hunting hours for the taking of big game animals begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. See the official Sunrise-Sunset Tables listed at the end of these regulations.

**License Year:** Montana’s license year is March 1 through the last day of February of the following year. The 2008 license year is March 1, 2008 – February 28, 2009.

**LPT:** Abbreviation for License/Permit Type. FWP uses a 5-digit code to identify and describe the types of licenses offered for each species. The 5-digit code is unique for each license type for a given species. The first three digits usually indicate a hunting district and the last two digits may identify the sex/age class, whether it’s a license or permit, and/or whether it is available over-the-counter.

**Over-the-Counter:** Term used when a license or permit may be purchased from License Providers, rather than only through a special drawing.

**Quota:** The quotas in this booklet are tentative. Final quotas are adopted by the FWP Commission after this booklet is printed. Special drawings are based on final quotas.

**Weapons Restriction:** Weapons restrictions are in effect in some hunting districts. Such restrictions are stated in the license/permit description and/or with a specific date range. Only certain weapons meeting the requirements may be used.

## 2008 Hunting Season Dates

The season dates below were adopted by the FWP Commission on February 20, 2008. These dates represent the “general” season dates. Check the individual hunting district regulations for the most accurate season dates and regulations.

**Big Game**

Antelope 900 series .....	Aug 15 - Nov 9
Antelope archery .....	Sep 6 - Oct 11
Antelope general .....	Oct 12 - Nov 9
Bighorn sheep .....	Sep 15 - Nov 30
Bison .....	Nov 15 - Feb 15, 2009
Black bear - spring .....	Apr 15 - May 31
Black bear - fall .....	Sep 15 - Nov 30
Deer & Elk archery .....	Sep 6 - Oct 19
Deer & Elk backcountry .....	Sep 15 - Nov 30
HD’s 150, 151, 280 & 316	
Deer & Elk general .....	Oct 26 - Nov 30
Moose .....	Sep 15 - Nov 30
Mountain goat .....	Sep 15 - Nov 30
Mountain lion - fall .....	Oct 26 - Nov 30
Mountain lion - winter .....	Dec 1 - Apr 14, 2009

**Upland Game Birds**

Sage grouse .....	Sep 1 - Nov 1
Sharp-tailed grouse .....	Sep 1 - Jan 01, 2009
Mountain grouse .....	Sep 1 - Dec 15
Partridge .....	Sep 1 - Jan 01, 2009
Pheasant .....	Oct 11 - Jan 01, 2009
Turkey - spring .....	Apr 12 - May 18
Turkey - fall .....	Sep 1 - Jan 01, 2009

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## Licenses Available Chart..... R = Resident NR = Nonresident

### Required Prerequisite — one or more of these may be required in order to purchase other licenses

Type of License	License Specifics – see individual species regulations for additional information	Cost
Conservation – Resident	Resident prerequisite for all licenses. Includes the state lands license (for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes). Residents 12-14 years of age and 62 or older need only a conservation license to fish and to hunt migratory birds and upland game birds, excluding turkey. Also allows a resident who is a Legion of Valor member, regardless of age, to fish.	R \$8
Conservation – Nonresident	Nonresident prerequisite for all licenses. Includes the state lands license (for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes). Also allows a nonresident who is a Legion of Valor member, regardless of age, to fish.	NR \$10
Conservation – Disabled Resident	Residents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as designated by FWP rules, must purchase this license annually which authorizes fishing, warm water fish, migratory birds and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. The purchase of deer A license for \$6.50 and elk for \$8 and includes a state lands license (for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes).	R \$8
Bow and Arrow (Archery)	Required for Archery Only Season and/or areas. Specific rules apply to purchase a bow and arrow license.	R \$10 NR \$10
Hunting Access Enhancement Fee	This is an annual fee and will be charged at the time the hunter purchases his/her first hunting license (including upland and migratory bird).	R \$2 NR \$10

### Resident Only – \* Cost includes \$5.00 drawing fee

Type of License	License Specifics – see individual species regulations for additional information	Cost
Deer A	Montana residents 12-14 years of age or holders of a disabled resident conservation license, may purchase a deer A license for \$6.50. Residents 62 years and older may purchase this license for \$10.	R \$16
Elk	Montana residents 12-14 years of age or holders of a disabled resident conservation license may purchase a license for \$8. Residents 62 years and older may purchase this license for \$12.	R \$20
Elk A9 License - Limited	Allows for the taking of an antlerless elk in designated areas. Deadline to apply is June 2.	*R \$25
Elk A9 License - Unlimited	Allows for the taking of an antlerless elk in designated areas. Purchase at License Providers.	R \$20
Hound Training License	Allows a Montana resident to train hounds during the hound training season without a mountain lion license. See mountain lion hunting regulations for specifics.	R \$5
Sportsman's (Including Bear)	Includes conservation, state lands, deer A, elk, and black bear license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland birds, excluding turkey. Deadline for Spring black bear is April 14 and August 31 for Fall black bear.	R \$85
Sportsman's (Without Bear)	Includes conservation, state lands, deer A, and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland birds, excluding turkey. Residents 62 years and older may purchase this license for \$55. Military members discharged or released from active duty that participated in a contingency operation outside the state for two months since September 11, 2001, may purchase this license at FWP offices for \$2. DD214 required at time of purchase.	R \$70
Youth Combination Sports License	Includes a conservation, state lands, deer A and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Available only to Montana residents 12-17 years of age. Any Montana youth 12 through 17 years of age who successfully completed a hunter safety and education course, who is purchasing his or her first hunting license, is entitled to receive a Resident Youth Combination Sports License free of charge.	R \$25
Youth Upland Game Bird	Available only to Montana residents 15-17 years of age.	R \$3

### NonResident Only – \* Cost includes \$5.00 drawing fee \*\* Cost includes \$5.00 drawing fee and \$10 Hunting Access Enhancement fee

Type of License	License Specifics – see individual species regulations for additional information	Cost
Big Game (Elk/Deer) Combination (General)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands, deer A, and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. 11,500 licenses available. Deadline to apply is March 15.	**NR \$643
Big Game (Elk/Deer) Combination (Outfitter Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands, deer A, and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Outfitter certificates should be obtained from your outfitter sponsor. All big game hunting with this license must be done with a licensed outfitter. Issued to all valid applicants sponsored by a certified outfitter received by March 17.	NR \$1500
Big Game (Elk/Deer) Combination (Youth)	Limited to 300 nonresident youths 12-17 years of age who have an adult immediate-family member who possess a resident deer or elk license or a nonresident big game elk or deer combination license. First-come, first-served. Application available online March 1.	**NR\$324
Deer Combination (General)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands, and deer A license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. 2,300 licenses available. Deadline to apply is March 15.	**NR \$343

**Licenses Available Chart..... R = Resident NR = Nonresident****NonResident Only** – \* Cost includes \$5.00 drawing fee \*\* Cost includes \$5.00 drawing fee and \$10 Hunting Access Enhancement fee

Type of License	License Specifics – see individual species regulations for additional information	Cost
Deer Combination (Landowner Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands, and deer A license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Landowner certificates should be obtained from your landowner sponsor. 2,000 licenses available. Deadline to apply is March 15.	**NR \$343
Deer Combination (Outfitter Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands and deer A license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Outfitter certificates should be obtained from your outfitter sponsor. All big game hunting with this license must be done with a licensed outfitter. Issued to all valid applicants sponsored by a certified outfitter received by March 17.	NR \$1100
Elk Combination (General)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. This license is included in the 11,500 quota of big game elk/deer combination license. Deadline to apply is March 15.	**NR \$593
Elk Combination (Outfitter Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Outfitter certificates should be obtained from your outfitter sponsor. All big game hunting with this license must be done with a licensed outfitter. Issued to all valid applicants sponsored by a certified outfitter received by March 17.	NR \$1400
Elk B12 License - Limited	Allows for the taking of antlerless elk in designated areas. Deadline to apply is June 2.	*NR \$278
Upland Game Bird 3-Day Preserve	Valid only on state-licensed private Shooting Preserve.	NR \$20

**Resident AND NonResident** – \* Cost includes \$5.00 drawing fee

Type of License	License Specifics – see individual species regulations for additional information	Cost
Antelope	Licenses limited to specific districts. Deadline to apply is June 2.	*R \$19 * NR \$205
Antelope Multi-region Archery Only	Either-sex archery only license. License limited to specific regions. May be applicant's first, second or third choice. Deadline to apply is June 2.	*R \$19 * NR \$205
Bighorn Sheep Limited/Unlimited	See moose, sheep, goat regulation booklet for details. Deadline to apply is May 1.	*R \$130 *NR \$755
Bison License	Deadline to apply - must be received by September 4.	R \$125 NR \$750
Black Bear	Licenses purchased after the April 14 deadline are valid only in the fall season. No bear license may be purchased after August 31. Deadline to apply/purchase the spring season license is April 14. Hunters must show proof of having passed a black bear identification test before purchasing a license.	R \$19 NR \$350
Crane	Deadline to apply - must be received by July 31.	*R \$5 *NR \$5
Deer B	Licenses limited to specific districts. Deadline to apply is June 2.	*R \$15 *NR \$80
Deer B Antlerless Whitetail, Single Region	Allows hunting of antlerless white-tailed deer only, in one region only. Conservation License and Hunting Access Enhancement Fee are prerequisites. Hunter must designate region upon purchase.	R \$10 NR \$75
Deer Permits	Must be used with a general Deer A License. Nonresidents must hold a Big Game or Deer Combination License to apply. Deadline to apply is June 2.	*R \$5 *NR \$5
Elk Permits	Nonresidents must hold a Big Game or Elk Combination License to apply. Residents must hold a valid Elk License to apply. State refund policy does not allow refunds under \$5. If you are unsuccessful for only an elk permit, a refund will not be sent. Deadline to apply is June 2.	*R \$9 *NR \$9
Montana Migratory Bird	Residents 12-15 years of age, 62 or older or holders of the Disabled Resident Conservation License need only a Conservation License; residents 16-61 and nonresidents 16 or older need a Conservation License, and a Montana Migratory Bird License. Federal waterfowl stamp also required for individuals 16 and older.	R \$6.50 NR \$50
Moose	See moose, sheep, goat regulation booklet for details. Deadline to apply is May 1.	*R \$130 *NR \$755
Mountain Goat	See moose, sheep, goat regulation booklet for details. Deadline to apply is May 1.	*R \$130 *NR \$755
Mountain Lion	Some districts require special limited-entry license. Deadline to purchase or apply is August 31.	R \$19 NR \$320
Mountain Lion Trophy	Must be purchased after mountain lion kill.	R \$50 NR \$50
SuperTags	Hunters can buy an unlimited number of \$5 chances to win a Montana hunting license for antelope, bighorn sheep, bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and mountain lion.	*R \$5 *NR \$5
Swan	Deadline to apply - must be received by September 4.	*R \$5 *NR \$5
Turkey	Conservation and Upland Game Bird Licenses are prerequisites only for residents. Nonresidents need only a Conservation License as a prerequisite. Montana offers both a spring and fall season. Deadline to apply for spring permit is March 13. Deadline to apply for fall permit is July 31.	R \$6.50 NR \$115
Upland Game Bird	Residents 12-14 years of age and 62 or older, or holders of a Disabled Resident Conservation License need only a Conservation License to hunt upland game birds.	R \$7.50 NR \$110

## General Information for Obtaining a License

**Your privacy is important to FWP and the State of Montana.** Recent legislation now requires only the last four numbers of your Social Security Number. These numbers are kept confidential by FWP.

### Residency

- It is illegal to swear to or to affirm a false statement in order to obtain an original or duplicate resident hunting and/or fishing license OR to assist an unqualified applicant in obtaining a resident license.
- To purchase an annual resident conservation license you will be required to show a valid Montana Driver's License (MDL), a valid Montana Identification Card (MIC) or a valid Tribal Identification Card. If your MDL or MIC has been issued for less than six months, you may be required to show additional proof of residency. An out-of-state driver's license is NOT an acceptable form of ID for resident license purchases. Contact your local FWP office for specifics.

**Resident:** To be a legal Montana resident and eligible to purchase any Montana resident fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses, as per MCA 87-2-102, you must:

- have been physically living in Montana for at least 180 consecutive days immediately prior to purchasing a resident license;
- register your vehicle(s) in Montana;
- be registered to vote in Montana if you're registered to vote at all;
- not possess current (or have applied for any) resident hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in another state or country;
- file Montana state income tax returns as a resident, if you are required to file.

Once you have established your residency, you must continue to meet all these requirements and physically reside in Montana as your principal or primary place of abode for not less than 120 days per year (days need not be consecutive).

A person is NOT considered a resident for the purposes of this section if the person:

- claims residence in any other state or country for any purpose; or
- is an absentee property owner paying property tax on property in Montana.

If you are unsure about your residency status, BEFORE you purchase a license, contact your local FWP office or the Helena enforcement office at 406-444-2452.

**Armed Forces:** A member of the regular armed forces of the United States, a member's dependent who resides in the member's Montana household, or a member of the armed forces of a foreign government attached to the regular armed forces of the United States is considered a resident for Montana hunting, fishing and trapping licenses if:

- The member was a resident of Montana under the provisions listed under residency at the time the member entered the armed forces and continues to meet these residency criteria; or,
- The member is currently stationed in and assigned to active duty in Montana, has resided in Montana for a least 30 days, and presents official assignment orders and a certificate verifying successful completion of an approved hunter safety course from any state or province.

**Nonresident:** Montana's nonresident guests are eligible to purchase or apply for most Montana fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses. By state law, nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the special license and/or permit quota for a district. The Licenses Available Chart provides details.

Note: Nonresident unmarried minors, at least 12 but not older than 17 years of age, can hunt in Montana as a resident if the minor's parents, legal guardian, or parent with joint custody, sole custody, or visitation rights is a legal resident of Montana.

## Prerequisites

**Conservation License:** Each new license year, a new Conservation License is required to purchase any fishing, trapping or hunting license(s), or to apply for special licenses/permits. Most licenses can be purchased from any License Provider beginning late February.

In compliance with the Federal Welfare Reform Laws, Montana law requires each resident and nonresident hunter, including youth, to provide the last four digits of his/her Social Security number when purchasing a Conservation License or obtaining a Conservation License through special drawings.

Montana is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. Under the compact, member states recognize suspensions of hunting, fishing or trapping privileges. It is illegal for a violator whose privilege to hunt, fish or trap is suspended to obtain or attempt to obtain a license, tag or permit in a member state. For more information, call 406-444-2452.

**Hunter Education:** If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license, whether the hunting license is for the rifle or archery season.

**Hunting Access Enhancement Fee:** This is an annual fee and will be charged at the time the hunter purchases his/her first hunting license (including upland and migratory bird).

## Hunting Licenses

Refer to the Licenses Available Chart for a complete list of resident and nonresident licenses and application or purchase deadlines.

### It is illegal to:

- Swear to or affirm any false statement when obtaining licenses or permits.
- Loan or transfer a license to another person or to use a license issued to another person.
- Carry or have physical control over a valid and unused hunting license or permit issued to another person while in any location where the species to be hunted occurs.
- Alter a license or permit for any reason.
- Hunt, fish, or trap while your license is suspended or revoked, or apply for a license or permit for a suspended privilege.

Licenses must be carried on your person at all times while in the field and hunting, and must be produced if requested by FWP Enforcement personnel.

Some bighorn sheep licenses may either be purchased from any License Provider, including Online Licensing, or applied for via a Special Drawing. Special Drawing applications must be postmarked by the deadline.

**Online Licensing:** You may apply for special permits and/or licenses and purchase many general hunting licenses from FWP Online Licensing between approximately 5:15 a.m. and 11:45 p.m., MST, 7 days a week within applicable sales dates.

- Go to [fwp.mt.gov/hunting/obtainlicense](http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/obtainlicense) and follow the instructions.
- Online purchases must be made by using a MasterCard or Visa credit card.
- Montana residents must have purchased a conservation license through the automated licensing system (ALS) in a previous license year and have an ALS number to buy licenses online. See Residency Requirements.
- Don't wait until the last minute to buy your hunting license on line as carcass tags are mailed to you within 10 days of your purchase.
- All online license purchases and applications are final, and cannot be changed or withdrawn.



Only one license of any type may be purchased each year, unless otherwise specified and allowed in the regulations.

**Hunting License:** A hunting license authorizes the holder to hunt the species identified on the license according to the regulations.

**Types of Licenses:** All licenses that can be used in a hunting district are listed in the regulations for that hunting district.

- **Conservation License:** Prerequisite for all resident and nonresident licenses. Includes the state lands recreation license (for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes).
- **Special License:** A special license is generally available through the Special Drawing. It allows you to hunt in an area and time period for a specific species, sex and/or age class of animal.
- **Replacements:** If your original license(s) is lost, stolen or destroyed, a replacement license may be issued by most license providers. A replacement fee will be charged. You will also be asked to swear or affirm to a statement that you have lost the license(s). If the original license(s) is found, it must be returned to FWP. A second replacement license for the same species within a two-year period requires that you go to an FWP office. A third replacement license for the same species within a two-year period is not permitted.

### SuperTag Lottery

- Resident and nonresident hunters can buy an unlimited number of \$5 chances to win a Montana hunting license for antelope, bighorn sheep, bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and mountain lion.
- An individual may be successful in winning one or a combination of these SuperTags per year.
- Each SuperTag license allows one to hunt in any Montana hunting district valid for that species.
- Moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat 7-year waiting period does not apply to SuperTags.
- Chances are sold electronically at all FWP License Providers or via the Internet.
- Proceeds from the sale of SuperTag chances will enhance public hunting access and boost FWP enforcement efforts.
- For more information visit FWP's website at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov).

Species	Deadline to Purchase SuperTag Chances @ \$5 each
Antelope	July 31
Bighorn Sheep	July 3
Bison	July 31
Deer	July 31
Elk	July 31
Moose	July 3
Mountain Goat	July 3
Mountain Lion	July 31



### Availability of Licenses

#### Deadlines:

- Moose, mountain goat and/or bighorn sheep applications must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than May 1. Or hunters may apply online no later than May 1 for special licenses for moose, mountain goat, and bighorn sheep.
- Applications are available at License Providers or may be downloaded from the FWP website. Nonresidents may call 406-444-2950 to request an application through the mail.
- You may have your application entered directly into the system at an FWP office or you may mail in your application. If the application is mailed, it must be postmarked no later than the deadline date. The postmark must be an official U.S. Postal Service mark. A postage meter postmark cannot be accepted.
- FWP encourages hunters to apply for special permits/licenses online as safeguards will not accept incomplete applications.

Also, your information is remembered for future purchases or license applications.

- Licenses/permits that have a purchase deadline have to be purchased no later than the deadline date.

Some licenses are valid only in a portion or portions of a hunting district. Carefully review the legal description of the district for which you are applying. A copy of the "portion of district" legal description is available: online at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov) and click on Hunt Planner. OR request by mail from the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Wildlife Division, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-070, OR email [fwpwld@mt.gov](mailto:fwpwld@mt.gov).

Both resident and nonresident hunters are eligible to apply for most of the licenses awarded through the special drawings. By state law, nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the license and/or permit quota. Drawings are based upon the final quotas adopted by the FWP Commission which may differ from the quotas listed in the hunting district regulations.

For specific special license opportunities please refer to the hunting district regulations where you will find a complete list of all available hunting opportunities for each hunting district.

**Unlimited Over-the-Counter Licenses:** Certain bighorn sheep licenses with unlimited quotas were formerly available only through a special drawing application. They are now available for purchase over-the-counter from License Providers or via the special drawing. While an over-the-counter purchase allows you to obtain the unlimited license immediately, the license still must be purchased by the May 1 deadline. If you purchase an unlimited over-the-counter license, you cannot apply for the same species with a drawing application. If you do not purchase an unlimited license over-the-counter, you can apply for them via the special drawings.

**Bonus Point System:** The fee to participate in the voluntary bonus-point system is \$2 for Montana residents and \$20 for nonresidents, payable with the license and application fees. You must pay the participation fee when applying to use or gain bonus points. When participating in the bonus point system, here's how it works:

- Applicants accumulate one bonus point for each unsuccessful year. Each bonus point essentially becomes an extra chance in future drawings. For example, applicants would have one chance to be drawn the first year they apply. If unsuccessful, they would have two chances to be drawn the following year and three chances the next year, and so on until they received the license. Once successful, the applicant loses all bonus points for that species.
- Bonus points are accumulated independently for each species and only apply to "first-choice" districts. An applicant may skip two consecutive years of participation without forfeiting accumulated points, but if an applicant skips the third year—or has errors that eliminate the applicant from the drawing—all accumulated points for that species will be lost. There is an exemption for Montana residents with full-time active military status.
- Rejection of an application because of applicant error is equivalent to failure to apply.
- Points are non-transferable.
- Applicants cannot apply just for a bonus point. You must apply correctly for the license and be unsuccessful to get a bonus point.
- FWP will contact bonus-point participants each year by postcard to report their accumulated points. Bonus-point status is also available online. It will be the applicant's responsibility to report AND provide proof of any discrepancies.

#### Special Drawing Results – dates are approximate

License	Drawing Results	Refunds Mailed
Nonresident	Mid April	End of April
Combination		
Moose, mountain goat, bighorn sheep	Third week of June	End of June
Deer, elk, Antelope	Mid July Mid August	End of August End of August

You may check for drawing results online at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov).

**Fees and Refunds:** In addition to the cost of each license, there is a \$5 nonrefundable drawing fee for each license you apply for. The \$5 fee covers the cost of printing and processing the application.

In some situations, FWP may refund resident or nonresident – in full or in part – fees for licenses and/or special drawings. Situations include:

Reason	Deadline	Refund
Death of licensee	12/31/08	100%
Death of family member	12/31/08	90%
Medical emergency	12/31/08	90%

The appropriate documentation (death certificate, medical statement, etc.) must accompany the unused license(s) and a signed request form certifying the license(s) have not been used. Nonresident license holders should call 406-444-2950 for information.

#### Call Special Licensing at 406-444-2950:

- If you do not receive your license or refund within 2-3 weeks of time from refund dates. Note: the license fee is refunded if an applicant is unsuccessful in the drawings, unless there is a valid obligation owed to the State of Montana or if the refund is less than \$5. If a valid obligation exists, the refund may be retained by the State Auditor and applied against that amount.
- For information on special drawings for big game hunting.

### Special Considerations

**Hunters with a Disability:** For applications, detailed eligibility requirements, and information on licenses and permits for hunters with disabilities contact any FWP office or the FWP website. See back cover for addresses and phone numbers.

- **Resident With a Disability Conservation License:** Residents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as defined by FWP rules, may purchase a conservation license for \$8 which includes fishing, warm water fishing, upland game bird (excluding turkey), state waterfowl licenses, and state lands license for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes. The license holder may also purchase a deer A and elk license at a discounted price. Applications for a Resident With a Disability Conservation License are available at all FWP offices and FWP website. The certification is valid for the life of the holder or until changed by the Montana Legislature.
- **Permit To Hunt From a Vehicle (PTHFV):** Residents and nonresidents certified as permanently and substantially non-ambulatory, as defined by FWP rules, may apply for a PTHFV. The PTHFV allows a person to hunt from a vehicle. A companion who is able to assist with field dressing a game animal must accompany the permit holder while hunting. It is illegal for the companion to shoot from the vehicle. Check with the appropriate land management agency or landowner regarding motorized access.
- **Permit To Modify Archery Equipment (PTMAE):** Residents and nonresidents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as defined by FWP rules, may apply for a PTMAE. The PTMAE allows a person with a disability to use archery tackle that supports the bow, and draws, holds, and releases the string to accommodate the individual disability. Arrows are not exempt, and must meet requirements for the Archery Only Season. This permit does not entitle the holder to use a crossbow. The permit only allows modification of legal archery tackle and must be used with a valid bow and arrow license and appropriate hunting license.

**Visually Challenged Individuals:** A copy of the big game regulations is available in an alternative format upon request. Call 406-444-2535 for details.

#### Youth Hunter:

- A youth 12 through 17 years of age is eligible for a variety of licenses, permits, and programs depending on age and residency status. There are also special requirements that apply to youth of certain ages.
- A youth 12 years of age, or who turns 12 before or during the season for which the license is issued, may apply for a special license and/or permit, but must be able to show proof of having completed an approved hunter education course when applying.

- Any Montana youth 12 through 17 years of age who successfully completed a hunter safety and education course, and who seeks to purchase his or her first Montana hunting license, is entitled to receive a Resident Youth Combination Sports License free of charge.
- In order to carry or use a firearm in public, a youth under 14 years of age must be accompanied by a person having charge or custody of the child, or be under the supervision of a qualified firearms safety instructor or an adult 18 years of age or older who has been authorized by the youth's parent or guardian, MCA 45-8-344.

## Guidelines, Rules and Laws for Hunting in Montana

### Hunter Orange Requirement

**Firearm Hunters:** Any person hunting or accompanying a hunter as an outfitter or guide must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) material above the waist, visible at all times.

### Seasons

Montana offers hunting opportunities for the use of both firearms and archery equipment.

**General Season:** Also referred to as the "firearm season." For moose, mountain goat and bighorn sheep, this is the period generally from mid-September to late November that is available for hunting with a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, crossbow or archery equipment. The specific dates and any weapons restrictions for each hunting opportunity will be specified in the hunting district regulations. All hunters are required to wear hunter orange.

**Archery Season:** Archery Only season for limited entry bighorn sheep hunting districts to run for 10 days prior to the start of any district's general bighorn sheep season opener. This does not include HD 301 or the unlimited entry districts. Bow and Arrow (archery) License required.

**Weapons Restriction Areas:** Weapons restrictions are in effect in some hunting districts. Such restrictions are stated in the license/permit description and/or with a specific date range. Only certain weapons meeting the requirements listed below may be used.

### Methods and Means of Hunting

#### Firearms:

##### General Season

- There is no rifle or handgun caliber limitation for the taking of big game animals. In addition, muzzleloaders, shotguns with 0, 00, or slugs, archery equipment, and crossbows are legal.
- The possession of firearms with silencers while afield is illegal.

#### Archery Only Season:

Archery Only season valid only for limited entry bighorn sheep hunting districts. Bow and Arrow (archery) License required.

The following equipment restrictions apply to all hunters during the archery only season and in archery equipment only areas.

- **Lawful Archery Equipment:** Lawful archery equipment requirements are listed below. It is illegal to possess, while hunting big game during any archery season, archery equipment that does not meet the following criteria.
  - **Hunting Bow:** A hunting bow for big game shall be a longbow, flatbow, recurve bow, compound bow, or any combination of these designs meeting the following requirements and restrictions:
    - The bow must be a device for launching an arrow, which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs (includes bows with split limbs).
    - The bow must be hand drawn by a single and direct uninterrupted pulling action of the shooter. The bowstring must be moved from brace height to the full draw position by the muscle power of the shooter's body. The energy



used to propel the arrow shall not be derived from any other source such as hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, or similar devices. These limitations shall not exclude the mechanical leverage advantage provided by eccentric wheels or cams, so long as the available energy stored in the bent limbs of the bow is the sole result of a single, continuous, and direct pulling effort by the shooter.

- The bow must be hand-held. One hand shall hold the bow and the other hand draw the bowstring. The bowstring must be moved and/or held at all points in the draw cycle entirely by muscle power of the shooter until release. The bowstring must be released as a direct and conscious action of the shooter, either relaxing the tension of the fingers or triggering the release action of a hand-held release aid.
- Exception: Physically disabled bowhunters certified by FWP with the Permit To Modify Archery Equipment (PMAE) are exempted from the requirement of holding or shooting the bow with their hands.
- The bow shall be no shorter than 28 inches.
- The nominal percent of let-off for hunting bows shall be a maximum of 80 percent. It is recognized that variations in draw length and/or draw weight can affect the percent of let-off on compound bows. For these reasons minor variations in let-off are acceptable.
- **Arrow:** An arrow is a projectile at least 20 inches in overall length. The length of the arrow is measured from the rearward point of the nock to the tip of the broadhead.
  - Fletching is attached to the nock end of the shaft.
  - A broadhead is mounted on the fore end.
  - The arrow shall weigh no less than 300 grains with the broadhead attached.
  - Arrows must have broadheads with at least two cutting edges. Expandable broadheads are legal as long as when expanded they are 7/8 inches at the widest point, and weigh no less than 70 grains.
- **The following are not considered a hunting bow or legal archery equipment during the Archery Only Season or in an ArchEquip Only area or hunting district:**
  - Crossbow.
  - Any device with a gun-type stock or incorporating any device or mechanism that holds the bowstring at partial or full draw without the shooter's muscle power.
  - Any bow for which a portion of the bow's riser (handle) or any track, trough, channel, or other device that attaches directly to the bow's riser contacts, supports, and/or guides the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height. This is not intended to restrict the use of standard overdraw systems.
  - Electronic or battery-powered devices attached to a hunting bow.
  - A bow sight or arrow which uses artificial light, luminous chemicals such as tritium, or electronics.
  - The following archery equipment is illegal during any season:
    - Any chemical or explosive device attached to an arrow to aid in the taking of wildlife.

#### Weapons Restriction Areas:

- Weapons restrictions are in effect in some hunting districts. Such restrictions are stated in the license/permit description and/or with a specific date range.
- In Weapons Restriction Areas only the weapons meeting the requirements listed below may be used.
- Hunter orange is required outside the Archery Only Season in Weapons Restriction Areas when using muzzleloaders, traditional handguns, shotguns and/or archery equipment.
- The following equipment restrictions apply to Weapons Restriction Areas:
  - **Muzzleloader:** There is no special season for muzzleloaders. A muzzleloader:
    - must not be capable of being loaded from the breech of the barrel;
    - may not be loaded with any prepared paper or metallic cartridges;
    - must be charged with black powder, pyrodex, or an equivalent;
    - must be ignited by a percussion, flintlock, matchlock, or wheellock mechanism;

- must be a minimum of .45 caliber;
- may have no more than two barrels; and
- must only use lead, not sabots.
- **Traditional Handguns:** A traditional handgun:
  - is not capable of being shoulder mounted;
  - has a barrel length of less than 10 ½ inches;
  - chambers only a straight wall cartridge, not originally developed for rifles.
- **Shotgun:** Definition of shotgun for use in Weapons Restriction Areas:
  - a shouldered, breech-loaded or muzzle-loaded firearm with a smooth bore and/or rifled barrel and/or rifled choke device designed to fire shot or rifled slugs.
- **Crossbows:** Legal in weapons restriction areas unless exception noted in specific hunting district regulations.

#### Hunter Access

- It is your responsibility as a hunter in Montana to always know where you are, to know who owns the land, and to know what access restrictions apply.
- Always carry a map that clearly marks hunting district boundaries, landownership, and travel restrictions. Maps may be obtained at most federal agencies such as U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service offices, as well as some sporting goods stores.
- Also, be sure to visit the FWP website for the Interactive Hunt Planner.

**Private Land:** Montana law requires permission for all hunting on private land. Even if the land is not posted, hunters must have permission from the landowner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property. Landowners may grant permission face-to-face, over the phone, in writing, or by posting signs that explain the type of hunting allowed—game species or sex—and under what conditions. Visit FWP's website for the Interactive Hunt Planner or visit [gis.mt.gov](http://gis.mt.gov) for assistance with land ownership.

**Block Management:** The Block Management program is a cooperative effort among private and some public landowners, FWP, and hunters. The program seeks to: (1) maintain public hunting access to private and isolated public lands; (2) help landowners manage public hunting and provide benefits to offset impacts like increased road maintenance and weed control; and (3) help FWP manage wildlife. Each FWP Region administers the Block Management Areas (BMAs) for its portion of the state. If you are interested in hunting a BMA, contact the regional office in the area you wish to hunt. Regional tabloids listing lands enrolled in the program are available annually on August 15, which is also the earliest date to reserve access to a BMA. For general information about block management, contact FWP at 406-444-2602.

**Railroad Access:** Railroads and railroad right-of-ways are private property and may not be hunted without permission, nor should they be used as access to other lands (private or public) without explicit permission from the railroad.

**Stream Access:** Big game hunting between the ordinary high water marks of streams and rivers is illegal without landowner permission.

#### Public Land:

- National Parks are closed to hunting.
- National Wildlife Refuge lands are closed except those areas designated open to public hunting. For hunting opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges or Federal Waterfowl Production Areas, inquire at the local refuge office.
- For hunting opportunities on federal lands such as U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Bureau of Land Management, inquire at the local federal office.
- Access to public lands through private land requires permission of the private landowner, lessee, or their agent.

**State School Trust Lands:** A \$2 fee paid when you purchase your conservation license, provides hunters, anglers and trappers access to legally accessible State School Trust Lands. Trappers still need to secure a "Special State Lands Recreational Use License" from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), usually at no additional charge. Other recreational activities such

as hiking and bird watching still require the \$10 fee. These activities cannot, by Federal statute, be covered by the conservation license. These rules apply:

- On lands outside designated campgrounds there is a 2-day camping limit.
- Overnight (2 night) camping is allowed within 200 feet of a legal access point.
- Horses may not be kept on state land overnight.
- Motorized travel is only allowed on public roads or on designated roads.
- Designated roads signed as "open" to motorized vehicle use or the information as to which roads are designated as open is available from the DNRC Offices.
- Motorized use of other roads and trails and all off-road use is prohibited.
- Game retrieval is by foot or horse only.
- No open fires are allowed except in designated campground fire pits. Contained mechanical heat sources are allowed.
- Firearms may not be discharged within ¼ mile of an inhabited dwelling or outbuilding without permission of the inhabitant.
- State School Trust Lands within Block Management Areas (BMA) may have more liberal regulations. Consult the individual regulations for specific BMAs.
- Additional information regarding the rules, regulations, and restrictions governing these activities is available from FWP or contact DNRC at 406-444-2074.

**State Game Preserves:** State game preserves may or may not be open to limited hunting. See Areas Closed or Limited to Hunting Methods for Big Game.

**State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)** – Wildlife Management Areas are generally open to hunting during the big game hunting season. WMAs with big game winter range are closed to public entry, unless otherwise posted, from the day following the end of the general deer-elk season or December 1, whichever is later, to May 15 each year, as posted.

- Exception: Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10; Kootenai Falls WMA is open year long; Porcupine (Gallatin), Dome Mountain, Bear Creek and Wall Creek WMAs open May 1.

**Tribal Land:** Only tribal members are allowed to hunt big game on Indian Reservations, unless otherwise provided for by agreements between the State of Montana and Tribal Government. For questions contact the respective Tribal Government office. See "Contacts Outside FWP" on back cover.

## Reporting Requirements

**Check Stations:** All hunters and anglers are required by law to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting and fishing areas, even if they have no game or fish to be checked.

**Inspection:** Wildlife taken must be shown to FWP enforcement for inspection when requested.

**Kill Site Verification:** As a condition of hunting in Montana, you may be required to return to the kill site if requested to do so by an FWP employee.

**What to do if you mistakenly harvest a game animal resulting in an illegally taken animal:** If you or a member of your hunting party shoots an animal that results in an illegally taken animal, you should notify a game warden or 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668) immediately and follow the directions given as to field dressing, transporting the animal and meeting with the warden. Do NOT transport the animal until you've received instructions.

**Marked or Radio-Collared Animals:** It is legal to shoot big game animals that have radio collars, neck bands, ear tags and/or other markers, but markers and radio collars must be returned to FWP. Please report the killing of a marked animal to the local FWP office.

**Harvest Survey:** Montana FWP conducts an annual telephone survey to gather hunting and harvest information from Montana hunters. Telephone interviewers call mid-week evenings and weekends to speak to hunters one-on-one to get the most accurate information possible. Wildlife managers use the results to evaluate hunting seasons and set quotas, season dates and other regulations.

## Procedures to Follow Upon Harvesting an Animal

**License Validation and Tagging:** Immediately after killing a game animal, a hunter must cut out the proper month and day of the kill from the appropriate license and attach it to the animal in a secure and visible manner.

To properly validate a license (sometimes referred to as a tag), locate the month the animal was killed and completely cut away (notch out) the month. Then locate and cut away (notch out) the first and second digits of the date the animal was killed. **Three cut outs or notches are required to properly validate the license.** More or less than three cut outs would invalidate the license. The example below shows a properly validated license for an animal harvested on November 7<sup>th</sup>. To secure the license to the animal, you can use black electrician's tape to wrap the license around the leg or antler.

The properly validated license must remain with the meat (including cold storage) until consumed. If quartered, the license should remain with the largest portion of the carcass.

**IMMEDIATELY UPON KILL**

Validate this tag by cutting out the month and the first and second digits of the date. Three cuts are required to correctly validate this tag. Attach tag to animal carcass in a visible manner.

JAN >  
FEB >  
MAR >  
APR >  
MAY >  
JUN >

DAY OF MONTH (BELOW)

1ST - DIGIT

A A A

1 2 3

2ND - DIGIT

A A A A A A A A

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

< JUL  
< AUG  
< SEP  
< OCT  
< DEC

## Evidence of Game Animal's Sex and Species Required:

You should consider this requirement when field dressing an animal.

- It is illegal to possess or transport the carcass of any big game animal unless evidence of the animal's sex and species remains naturally attached to its carcass or a portion of the carcass.
  - The easiest way to meet this requirement is to leave the animal's head attached to the carcass. However, if the animal's head is removed (including quartered, boned-out or skinned animals) some other evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the carcass or a portion of it.
- The following are considered lawful evidence of sex for horned or antlered game animals. For specific requirements for black bear and mountain lion, refer to the respective species regulations.
  - **Male:** head with the horns or antlers naturally attached, penis, testicles, or scrotum.
  - **Female:** head or udder (mammarys).
- Evidence of an animal's sex and species must remain naturally attached until the animal's meat is processed (cut and wrapped) or delivered to a taxidermist.
- If you have questions on how to apply the regulations in your particular situation, please contact your local game warden or regional FWP enforcement.

## Game Retrieval:

- In all cases, when on private lands, hunters must first obtain permission from the landowner.
- In the case of public lands, the policy or law varies.
  - BLM public lands allow motorized travel on roads and trails unless designated closed.
  - On National Forest Lands and National Wildlife Refuges, all motorized off-road/trail travel is prohibited.
  - For further information, contact the appropriate land management agencies.

**Transport of Wildlife:** An individual other than the license holder may transport properly tagged animals that comply with the

“Evidence of Sex Requirements” and that were lawfully taken by the license holder. If you have specific questions please contact FWP Enforcement at 406-444-2452.

- All shippers of fish, game or nongame birds, game animals, fur-bearing animals, the skins of fur-bearing animals or predatory animals, or parts thereof are required to label all packages offered for shipment by parcel post or common carrier (airlines or UPS, etc.). The label must be securely attached to the address of the package and shall plainly indicate the names and addresses of the consignor and consignee and the complete contents of the package. It is a violation of the Federal Lacey Act to transport an illegally taken game animal across state boundaries.
- It is illegal to ship, possess, or take out of state illegally killed game, game birds, and/or furbearers. If you are transporting lawfully taken wildlife (including parts and/or products of live or dead animals) between Montana and Canada or between the United States and any foreign country, whether for commercial or noncommercial purposes, you must complete a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Declaration form (Form 3-177). Form 3-177 is available at all United States customs ports and on the USFWS web site at [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov). Additional federal permits may also be needed to import/export wildlife, depending on the species. For further information contact the USFWS Wildlife Inspector at 406-335-4350.
- Because of concerns about the introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a number of states have instituted regulations prohibiting the import of certain deer, elk, or moose carcass parts. CWD has not been detected in free-ranging deer, elk, or moose in Montana. Some states would, however, prohibit movement of a deer, elk, or moose whole carcass harvested in Montana back to that state. If you plan on transporting your harvested animal back to your home state, you should check with your state regulatory authorities concerning current regulations. The CWD Alliance at <http://www.cwd-info.org> maintains a listing of current state regulations under the “regulations” tab on their website. Questions concerning carcass transport may be directed to FWP Enforcement at 406-444-2452.
- It is unlawful to transport into Montana the whole carcass or certain carcass parts of white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk from states or provinces with documented occurrences of CWD in wild populations or on private game farms. Those states and provinces currently include Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Only the following carcass parts may be transported into Montana from those states:
  1. Meat that is cut and wrapped.
  2. Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
  3. Meat that has been boned out.
  4. Hides with no heads attached.
  5. Clean (no meat or tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached.
  6. Antlers with no meat or tissue attached.
  7. Upper canine teeth, also known as “buglers”, “whistlers” or “ivories”.
  8. Finished head, partial body or whole body mounts already prepared by a taxidermist.
 Keep in mind that “Evidence of Sex Requirements” must always be met when transporting any of these parts back into Montana.

## Other Hunting Rules and Statutes

**Airplane Spotting:** Aircraft may not be used to locate big game animals for the purpose of:

- hunting those animals within the same hunting day after a person has been airborne; or
- providing information to another person for the purpose of hunting those animals within the same hunting day after being airborne.
- The same hunting day in these contexts is defined as between the earliest and latest legal hunting hours.

**Antler/Horn/Skull Possession:** Individuals may possess, transport, sell, or purchase naturally shed antlers, or the antlers with a skull or portion of a skull attached from a game animal that has died from natural causes and that has not been illegally

or accidentally killed. Because road-killed animals have not died from natural causes, the carcass or parts of protected or regulated species may not be salvaged or possessed. It is illegal to possess a bighorn sheep head/horn picked up in the wild.

**Dogs:** MCA 87-3-124 states that persons may not use dogs to hunt (which includes pursue or chase) game or fur-bearing animals. Exceptions under this law allow using dogs to hunt game birds during the appropriate season, and allow the FWP Commission to regulate the use of dogs for hunting and chasing mountain lions and bobcats.

**Game Calls:** It is illegal to use a recorded or electrically amplified game call to hunt big game.

**Glandular Scents:** Natural or artificial glandular scents may be used by licensed hunters to attract game animals or game birds by spraying or pouring the scent on the ground or other objects. Hunters may not create a scent station where the scent continues to be dispensed without the hunter’s direct action, such as an automatic device, which drips or otherwise continues to dispense scent. Scents may not be used to attract bears. No scents other than glandular may be used for attracting animals, but other scents may be used to mask human odor. Hunters should be aware that the use of scents could attract bears or mountain lions.

**Littering:** A person convicted of littering while hunting, fishing, or camping may lose his or her license and privileges to hunt, fish, trap, or camp within Montana for a period of one year.

**Motion-Tracking or Camera Devices:** It is illegal for a person to possess, while hunting, any electronic motion-tracking device that is designed to track the motion of animals and relay information on the animal’s movement to the hunter. This includes, but is not limited to: remote operated camera or video devices; seismic devices; electronic trip wires, photo beam, or laser devices used to activate tracking or recording devices; thermal imaging devices; and satellite and radio-telemetry tracking devices. A radio-tracking collar attached to a dog when hunting mountain lion and/or bobcat is not considered a motion-tracking device or mechanism for the purposes of this regulation.

**Motorized Vehicles:** Hunters may not use a motorized vehicle (including OHVs) or aircraft to concentrate, drive, rally, stir-up, corral, or harass game animals. On public lands it is illegal to operate a motorized wheeled vehicle off legal routes (including game retrieval). All federally approved travel plans on public lands in Montana are hereby adopted by the FWP Commission. Motorized travel in restricted areas in violation of any current travel plan or land use plan is prohibited during the hunting season. For further information, contact the appropriate land management agencies.

**Night Vision Equipment:** It is illegal to use night vision equipment or electronically enhanced light gathering optics for locating or hunting game animals.

### Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV):

Examples of an OHV include but are not limited to: motorcycles, quadricycles (also known as 4-wheelers), dune buggies, amphibious vehicles, air cushion vehicles, and any other means of land transportation deriving motive power from any source other than muscle or wind.

- In order to operate an OHV on public lands, the OHV must have a valid/current registration and display an OHV decal.
- For use on most public roads, an OHV must be registered as a motor vehicle and display a valid license plate.
- For off-road use on legal trails, OHVs have a valid/current registration and display an OHV decal.
- Residents must register their OHV at their County Treasurer’s office.
- Nonresidents must register their OHV in their home state or purchase a temporary Off-Highway Vehicle use permit from Montana FWP. The permit is \$5 and expires on December 31 of the year issued.
  - OHV permits may be purchased from some FWP License Providers, some Vendors (such as a private OHV dealership), or download an application at [fwp.mt.gov/hunting/licenses/applications](http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/licenses/applications). For a complete listing of where nonresident OHV permits are available, check the FWP website at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov).



**Outfitters and Guides:** It is illegal to hire an outfitter or guide not licensed by the Department of Labor and Industry. For information, call 406-841-2373.

**Party Hunting:** Party hunting is illegal in Montana. Each hunter must shoot and tag his/her own animal. A hunter is prohibited from loaning or transferring his/her license to another person.

**Predator and Nongame Hunting:** Predators and nongame species, except prairie dogs, are unprotected by federal and/or state law or regulation and can be hunted in Montana year-round without a license by both resident and nonresident hunters. A conservation license, or a state school trust lands recreational use license, is required to hunt predators and nongame species on state school trust lands. Permission must be obtained to hunt predators and nongame species on private land. For regulations on prairie dog hunting contact FWP at 406-444-2612.

- Predators are classified as coyote, weasel, (striped) skunk, and civet cat (spotted skunk).
- Nongame species are defined as any wild animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation in Montana. Examples include badger, raccoon, red fox, hares, rabbits, ground squirrels, marmots, tree squirrels, and porcupines.
- Furbearers are protected game species that may only be taken by residents with a valid trapping license during prescribed open seasons. State classified furbearers include beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, marten, fisher, wolverine, bobcat, lynx, and swift fox.

**Prohibited Methods of Taking:** It is illegal for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird:

- from any self propelled (that is, motorized) or drawn vehicle. Even if the vehicle is not moving, hunters must be off or out of the vehicle. Holders of PTHFV are the exception to this;
- on, from, or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, barrow pit or right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel, (MCA 61-1-202) in the State of Montana); or
- by the aid or with the use of any set gun, jacklight, spotlight or other artificial light, trap, snare, salt lick, or bait. (MCA 87-3-101). Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of corn, wheat, or other grain or food sources so as to constitute a lure or attraction.

**Restitution for Illegally Taken Trophy Wildlife:** Under Montana law a person convicted (or who was charged and forfeited bond or bail) of illegally killing, taking, or possessing a **trophy animal** shall reimburse the state. The law sets the amount of restitution for each trophy animal under MCA 87-1-115 as:

• Bighorn Sheep	\$30,000
• Elk	\$ 8,000
• Antlered Deer	\$ 8,000
• Moose	\$ 6,000
• Mountain Goat	\$ 6,000
• Antelope	\$ 2,000
• Grizzly Bear	\$ 8,000
(no authorized hunting season)	

The law specifically outlines minimum standards for a trophy under this regulation, but authorizes the FWP Commission to adopt more specific criteria.

**Shooting of Alternative Livestock:** An alternative livestock (game farm) licensee may not allow elk, deer, or other animals classified as alternative livestock to be shot on his/her facility for a fee or any other type of compensation.

**Simulated Wildlife:** It is illegal to discharge a firearm or other hunting implement at a simulated wildlife decoy in violation of any state statute or FWP commission rule regulating the hunting of the wildlife being simulated.

**Transporting Horses and Mules in Montana:** For information call Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-2045.

**Traps:** It is illegal to disturb traps or trapped animals. Traps and trapped animals are the property of the trap owner. Hunters should not shoot trapped animals as this could result in pelt damage or make the animal unsalvageable.

**Two-way Communication:** Two-way communication may not be used to:

- Hunt game animals or upland game birds, migratory birds or furbearers as defined in MCA 87-2-101 (8) ("Hunt" means to "pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess or capture."), or
- Avoid game checking stations, FWP enforcement personnel, or to facilitate illegal activity.

The rule does not prohibit the possession or use of two-way communication for safety or other legitimate purposes.

**Waste of Game:** Hunters, or persons in possession of a game animal or game animal parts, are prohibited from wasting or rendering unfit for human consumption, any part of a game animal that is defined as "suitable for food." For big game animals (excluding mountain lions), all of the four quarters above the hock, including loin and backstrap, are considered suitable for food.

**Weed Control and Weed-Free Hay:** Montana requires use of certified weed-free hay, grain, straw, mulch, cubes and pelletized feed on federal lands. Contact the Montana Department of Agriculture at 406-444-5400. Infestations of noxious weeds reduce the amount of available food for wildlife and livestock.

## Montana Is Bear Country Carry Bear Pepper Spray and Know How to Use It!

- Hunting puts you at risk of encountering a bear. Calling game and using scents may attract bears.
- If you hunt alone, let someone know about your plans. If you feel uneasy hunting alone, hunt with a partner.
- Pay attention to fresh bear sign. Communicate with others and let them know when bears have been seen and/or fresh sign observed.
- Some bears may move in the direction of a gunshot because they learned to associate the sound with a gut pile or carcass.
- The golden rule is "get the game animal out of the area as quickly as possible." The longer a carcass remains lying on the ground, hung up in camp, or stored in the back of a truck, the more likely it will be discovered by a bear.
- Carcasses left for a period of time require special care. Carry a colored, lightweight tarp or space blanket. Put the guts on the tarp and drag them a few hundred feet away from the carcass. Locate an observation point 200 yards (if possible) away from the carcass with a clear line of sight.
- When returning, approach the observation point carefully. Yell or whistle repeatedly. With binoculars study the scene from the observation point and scan the area for the carcass and any movement. If a bear is at the site and refuses to leave or the meat has been covered up with debris by a bear, report the incident to FWP.
- Do not attempt to frighten away or haze a bear, especially a grizzly.
- Bears are opportunists and change their behavior to take advantage of new food sources. Always assume that grizzlies are in the area and make sure your camps, cabins, and homes are bear proof, and that bear attractants are unavailable or contained.
- Carry bear pepper spray. Keep the spray within reach and know how to use it. In sudden grizzly encounters bear pepper spray has proven effective. Bears sprayed in the face at close range often stop attacking.
- Mentally rehearse a worst-case scenario with encountering a bear. "If the mind has never been there before, the body does not know how to respond."
- As a last resort, if attacked, play dead. Lie face down, covering your neck and head with your hands and arms. If you have a backpack leave it on to protect your back. Stay face down, never look at the bear and remain still until the bear is gone. Many people survive bear attacks using this method.

## Moose • Bighorn Sheep • Mountain Goat Drawing Statistics

The statistics on this page are from the 2007 Special Drawings and are meant to give you a relative comparison between area choices. These numbers do not reflect the use of bonus points, landowner preference, or the nonresident limit of up to 10% of the quota.

For more detailed statistics on resident/nonresident numbers, landowner drawing statistics, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice numbers and district specific bonus point information, visit our Website at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov) under Hunt Planner.

### Key:

**LPT = License/Permit Type.** The first three digits most often represent the hunting district number.

**– Apps = Total number of resident and nonresident 1<sup>st</sup> choice applicants.**

**– Suc = Total number of 1<sup>st</sup> choice applicants that were successful.**

**% Suc = Percentage of 1<sup>st</sup> choice applicants that were successful.**

### MOOSE

LPT	– Apps	– Suc	% Suc	LPT	– Apps	– Suc	% Suc
100-00	541	15	2.77	321-10	8	1	12.5
101-00	514	15	2.92	321-20	64	3	4.69
102-00	982	15	1.53	322-20	132	5	3.79
103-00	135	5	3.7	323-00	166	5	3.01
104-00	136	5	3.68	323-10	111	12	10.81
105-00	783	20	2.55	323-20	531	10	1.88
105-10	164	5	3.05	324-00	28	1	3.57
106-00	799	15	1.88	324-10	53	5	9.43
110-00	828	15	1.81	324-20	341	8	2.35
111-00	521	10	1.92	325-10	45	4	8.89
112-00	212	5	2.36	325-20	165	4	2.42
121-00	237	6	2.53	326-00	88	5	5.68
122-00	427	8	1.87	326-10	86	12	13.95
125-00	131	3	2.29	326-20	183	5	2.73
126-20	39	1	2.56	327-00	76	3	3.95
130-00	136	5	3.68	327-10	46	7	15.22
140-00	206	5	2.43	327-20	199	8	4.02
141-00	147	6	4.08	328-20	28	2	7.14
150-00	35	2	5.71	329-20	68	5	7.35
210-10	70	4	5.71	330-10	56	5	8.93
210-20	310	4	1.29	330-20	452	5	1.11
211-10	28	1	3.57	331-10	113	10	8.85
211-20	143	3	2.1	331-20	1482	10	0.67
212-10	56	5	8.93	332-10	118	15	12.71
212-20	365	8	2.19	332-20	908	15	1.65
214-00	87	2	2.3	333-10	14	2	14.29
214-10	10	2	20	333-20	79	2	2.53
215-10	32	2	6.25	334-10	29	3	10.34
215-20	213	3	1.41	334-11	33	3	9.09
220-20	147	3	2.04	334-20	245	5	2.04
230-20	348	4	1.15	335-20	120	3	2.5
240-00	193	5	2.59	340-10	81	6	7.41
250-20	289	5	1.73	340-20	337	6	1.78
261-20	122	2	1.64	341-10	23	3	13.04
270-00	738	10	1.36	341-20	85	3	3.53
280-20	80	2	2.5	350-10	13	2	15.38
285-20	96	2	2.08	350-20	105	5	4.76
291-00	26	3	11.54	360-20	97	5	5.15
292-20	244	6	2.46	361-20	156	5	3.21
293-20	241	2	0.83	362-20	103	3	2.91
300-10	77	7	9.09	380-10	39	2	5.13
300-20	482	8	1.66	380-20	396	5	1.26
301-10	70	5	7.14	382-20	115	3	2.61
301-20	232	8	3.45	415-20	81	3	3.7
302-10	20	5	25	494-00	551	6	1.09
302-20	104	5	4.81	496-00	218	4	1.83
303-00	177	4	2.26	513-20	150	3	2
303-10	24	2	8.33	514-20	400	4	1
304-20	115	4	3.48	515-20	36	1	2.78
306-20	37	3	8.11	516-20	121	3	2.48
307-20	17	1	5.88				
308-20	72	4	5.56				
309-20	189	7	3.7				
310-20	100	1	1				
311-20	358	15	4.19				
312-20	262	5	1.91				
313-20	107	5	4.67				
314-20	115	6	5.22				
315-20	154	6	3.9				
316-20	24	3	12.5				
317-20	28	2	7.14				
318-20	37	3	8.11				
319-10	33	3	9.09				
319-20	112	4	3.57				
320-10	38	3	7.89				
320-20	240	3	1.25				

### BIGHORN SHEEP

LPT	– Apps	– Suc	% Suc
100-00	87	1	1.15
102-00	89	1	1.12
121-00	1921	10	0.52
122-00	591	6	1.02
122-30	13	4	30.77
123-00	229	4	1.75
123-30	1	1	100
124-00	1127	10	0.89
124-30	35	20	57.14
203-00	463	5	1.08
203-30	14	10	71.43
210-00	481	4	0.83
210-30	29	10	34.48
212-00	105	1	0.95
213-00	1186	8	0.67
213-30	20	20	100
216-00	474	4	0.84
216-30	28	20	71.43
250-00	97	2	2.06
250-10	21	1	4.76
261-00	264	5	1.89
270-00	1763	8	0.45
270-30	31	10	32.26
283-00	276	3	1.09
283-30	15	10	66.67
300-20	35	35	100
303-20	23	23	100
304-00	83	1	1.2
305-10	94	1	1.06
315-00	256	2	0.78
380-00	782	4	0.51
380-30	14	8	57.14
381-00	102	1	0.98
421-00	73	2	2.74
422-00	706	7	0.99
422-30	24	20	83.33
423-00	528	5	0.95
423-30	7	6	85.71
424-00	1236	6	0.49
424-30	30	20	66.67
441-00	215	5	2.33
455-00	143	1	0.7
482-00	3087	15	0.49
482-30	36	15	41.67
482-31	11	5	45.45
500-20	35	35	100
501-20	58	58	100
503-10	202	3	1.49
622-00	1419	7	0.49
680-00	3633	20	0.55
680-30	113	30	26.55
680-31	20	17	85

### MOUNTAIN GOAT

LPT	– Apps	– Suc	% Suc
100-00	490	8	1.63
101-00	172	4	2.33
131-00	250	5	2
132-00	96	2	2.08
133-00	90	3	3.33
134-00	122	2	1.64
140-00	111	2	1.8
141-00	139	2	1.44
142-00	50	2	4
150-00	42	2	4.76
151-00	49	2	4.08
212-00	178	1	0.56
223-00	93	2	2.15
240-00	61	1	1.64
240-01	110	2	1.82
240-02	93	2	2.15
240-03	46	1	2.17
240-04	38	1	2.63
240-05	105	2	1.9
240-06	49	1	2.04
240-07	62	1	1.61
240-08	70	1	1.43
250-00	64	1	1.56
250-01	46	1	2.17
280-00	55	2	3.64
312-00	468	8	1.71
313-00	992	42	4.23
314-00	289	14	4.84
316-00	201	12	5.97
320-00	846	15	1.77
321-00	128	1	0.78
322-00	49	1	2.04
323-00	450	26	5.78
324-00	73	4	5.48
325-00	113	4	3.54
326-00	105	6	5.71
327-00	55	4	7.27
328-00	92	2	2.17
329-00	437	32	7.32
330-00	107	6	5.61
331-00	265	5	1.89
362-00	180	6	3.33
393-00	634	5	0.79
414-00	52	1	1.92
415-00	75	3	4
442-00	81	1	1.23
447-00	1967	10	0.51
451-00	865	4	0.46
460-00	606	7	1.16
514-00	143	4	2.8
517-00	290	8	2.76
518-00	135	5	3.7
519-00	37	2	5.41